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See Page 13 for more info!
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.....
See Page 8!

Teen released by hospital following drive-by shooting

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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CRIME The teen who was grazed by a bullet Tuesday night was released from hospital yesterday morning.

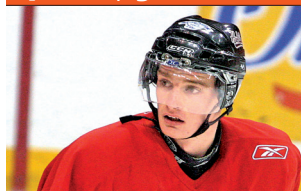
Tuesday night, four boys at the corner of Bayers Road and Romans Avenue heard a popping sound from nearby silver Honda Civic.

The 14-year-old victim said he felt a burning sensation in his back and thought a firecracker had gone down his coat.

He'd been grazed with a bullet. Police have been interviewing witnesses, but haven't arrested any suspects yet.

Any witnesses are asked to call police at 490-5016.

Sports pg 7



Amyot gets new start with Herd

Comments pg 6

Mania over Obama won't last too long

Food pg 9



Cooking a mean bean

Canada pg 4

Polygamist charges laid



Richard Hurlburt, the new minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, covers new Energy Minister Barry Barnett's head — presumably to shield himself from glare — just before an official photo of the new provincial cabinet at Province House yesterday.

Do the shuffle

Provincial cabinet gets shakeup

PAUL MCLEOD
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There were a lot of familiar faces but unfamiliar titles yesterday as Rodney MacDonald's long-rumoured cabinet shuffle finally happened.

All but three ministers either left cabinet or swapped with another member. Mark Parent will go to Agriculture from Environment just two days before the province's long-awaited climate change plan was supposed to be released.

Premier MacDonald said that would mean postponing the oft-delayed plan once again. He said it'll take another week or so for the new environment

"This is an old car with a new paint job and it won't take long for the rust spots to show up. All they did was move people around." Liberal leader Stephen McNeil

minister, David Morse, to catch up on the file.

There was a three-way swap in top departments — Karen Casey will go from Education to Health, replacing Chris d'Entremont who goes to Community Services, while Judy Streach goes to Education.

"As with any government, there comes a point in time where I, as premier, saw the opportunity to change," said MacDonald.

"I also see the value in

having members have knowledge of other departments sitting around the table. That adds greatly to the discussions that happen and the decisions."

Jamie Muir dropped out of cabinet because he won't be re-offering in the next election.

That left room for one new minister, Pictou Centre MLA Pat Dunn, who takes over Health Promotion and Protection.

Justice Minister Cecil Clarke, Finance Minister Michael Baker and Fish-

eries Minister Ronald Chisholm will all keep their positions.

Baker said he plans to re-offer in the next election, despite his battle with cancer.

Opposition leaders were in attendance and expressed skepticism that the shuffle would bring out new ideas.

Liberal leader Stephen McNeil several times repeated a car analogy.

"This is an old car with a new paint job and it won't take long for the rust spots to show up," said McNeil. "All they did was move people around."

NDP Leader Darrell Dexter congratulated the ministers, but said there wasn't much substantive change.

Cabinet shuffle

A list of who went where

After months of speculation, Premier Rodney MacDonald shuffled his cabinet yesterday afternoon.

Were there some surprise moves? Here's who went where:

- David Morse is the new Environment minister.
- Barry Barnett is the new Energy minister, and the new minister responsible for Conserve Nova Scotia.
- Richard Hurlburt moves from Energy to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.
- Chris David Morse d'Entremont, former Health minister, moves to Community Services.
- Carolyn Bolivar-Getson is the new Natural Resources minister.
- Murray Scott is the new minister of Economic and Rural Development.
- Judy Streach is the Education minister.
- Angus MacIsaac moves to chair of Treasury and Policy Board.
- Karen Casey is the new Health minister.
- Pat Dunn joins cabinet as the minister of Health Promotion and Protection.

STAYING ON:

- Michael Baker keeps the Finance and Aboriginal Affairs portfolios.
- Cecil Clarke remains Justice minister.
- Brooke Taylor remains Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal minister.
- Bill Dooks remains minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage.
- Ronald Chisholm is the minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Mark Parent continues as minister of Labour and Workforce Development and will be the minister of Agriculture.
- Len Goucher retains the Immigration portfolio. He also becomes minister of Seniors.



Chris David Morse



Cecil Clarke

Local



Signing on the dotted line

Atlantic Canadians are cautious lenders. Fifty-two per cent of us have loaned or borrowed more than \$500 from friends or family, the lowest in the country, according to an Investors Group poll. We're more likely to co-sign a loan or a lease for our loved ones, though.

METRO HALIFAX

Accidents few despite icy conditions

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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WEATHER Just in time for the drive home, the HRM was hit with freezing rain and snow last night.

Rush-hour traffic was moving at a snail's pace on some roads, if it was moving at all.

And calling a cab company meant constant busy signals.

But surprisingly, the accidents around town were few.

Sgt. Don Moser with the Halifax Regional Police said at around 7 p.m. that there were no accidents the police were investigating.

"I drove into work at about 5 p.m., and traffic was backed up and the roads were slippery," he said.

Environment Canada blanketed most of the Maritimes in freezing-rain warnings yesterday afternoon. An intense low-pressure system pushed a warm front over Nova Scotia, creating a mess of snow, freezing rain and ice pellets.

It was expected to change to regular rain last night as the winds came in.

"There are some vehicles that have slid off the road. I don't have a count on them yet," said provincial RCMP spokesman Sgt. Mark Gallagher a few hours after the storm struck.

"It's very slippery and treacherous, but nothing serious has been reported to me yet."

Out at the airport, many of the flights in or out were either cancelled or delayed.

Carpool, anyone? School bus strike could happen by end of January

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Parents of the 23,000 Halifax-area students who bus to school should start making plans to cope with a school bus strike.

Yesterday morning, 290 drivers, monitors and mechanics with Stock Transportation voted 98 per cent against the company's last offer. They could be on strike by Jan. 26, if no last-minute deal is reached.

Nearly half of the board's 52,000 students are bused to school.

Stock offered three per cent raises every year for three years. That would leave a bus driver with three years' experience making a little more than \$14 an hour by the end of the contract, according to NSGEU president Joan Jessome. The union wants \$1 hourly raises each year, to \$18 an hour by 2012 for drivers.

"They're the lowest-paid



Joan Jessome and Neil McNeil from the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union count votes yesterday during a union meeting. School bus drivers, monitors and mechanics have rejected the latest offer from Stock Transportation and could go on strike later this month.

bus drivers in the province," Jessome said.

"There's no pension, no RSPs, very little medical, no

dental. They're not bloated, by any stretch."

Jessome said one 19-year veteran driver makes less

now than she did before privatization.

John Turney, regional vice-president for Stock,

says the company can't afford to pay more than three per cent because it's locked into a five-year, \$60-million contract with the Halifax Regional School Board until June 2011.

A strike is a "real possibility," Turney said.

"The No. 1 priority is to transport students safely. Without the drivers, mechanics and monitors, we don't feel we can do that," Turney said.

"It would be prudent for parents to make alternate arrangements."

Halifax Regional School Board spokesman Doug Hadley said the board can't bus kids to school without Stock.

Schools will stay open if there's a bus strike, he said. Parents who can't find another way to get their children to class can talk to principals and teachers to keep their children up to date on schoolwork.

The two sides have been negotiating since last February.

Coffee-brewing, leg-shaving fake phone gets real hits

CAMPAIGN Remember the Pomegranate?

The provincial government's web campaign — about a fake cellphone that would brew your coffee and shave your legs — has gotten more than 560,000 hits from more than 190 countries since its launch this fall.

The province says one company, Ross Screenprint of Antigonish, got a new business lead as a result.

The campaign — reported first in Metro Halifax on Oct. 1 — cost \$300,000. It's designed to get people thinking about moving here.

METRO HALIFAX



More Bluenosers going broke: Data

PAUL MCLEOD
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More Nova Scotians are going bankrupt, while even more and richer people struggle to avoid it, according to new provincial data.

In November, 325 people went bankrupt in the province. That's an 18 per cent increase over the November 2007 number of 275.

That's in line with the rest of the country. Overall, there were about 15 per cent more bankruptcies in Canada in November 2008 than a year earlier.

And there are signs of worse news to come. Other data shows that more people

"They're pretty startling numbers."

John Eisner

are seeking counselling to try to avoid going bankrupt.

Credit Counselling Services of Atlantic Canada, which offers sessions to help consumers avoid bankruptcy, has seen a spike of new appointments. A growing number are from the middle and upper class.

In December, Credit Counselling had 688 appointments across Atlantic Canada, an increase of almost 20 per cent over last year.

"They're pretty startling numbers," said president

John Eisner.

"You take an 18 per cent increase over the year before, that's a statement."

January is continuing the trend. Last year there were about 700 appointments for the entire month. One week into this year, about half that many are already booked.

"On Monday of this week, for instance... there were 72 appointments. That's a heavy day," said Eisner.

But the high number of people looking for information doesn't necessarily mean more people will go broke.

Eisner said some people come in proactively to be prepared if their situation does get worse.

Fisheries need regular monitoring, says report, lists 'significant concerns'

GPI ATLANTIC A recent picture of Nova Scotia's fisheries isn't exactly rosy.

A Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Atlantic report shows there are a number of "significant concerns" coming from their report card.

Cod is continuing its de-

cline, while haddock and pollock have slightly increased in the last decade. Species at risk — the right whale and the porbeagle shark — are also diminishing.

There tend to be fewer young fishers and fewer No-

va Scotians are sharing the profits from the fishery.

"Clearly these concerns must be addressed in fishery management and ocean conservation work," states the report.

Shellfish closures have more than doubled since

1985, but the report says this is evidence of a deterioration of the quality of the marine environment. Lobster catches have increased since the 1980s, but there was a 30 per cent drop in catches between 2006 and 2007.

GPI Atlantic suggests a

wide variety of indicators of the industry need to be regularly monitored.

"This is imperative if we are to move toward genuinely sustainable fisheries and healthy marine environments in Nova Scotia."

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Medicine Scientists are developing tiny robots to fight disease from the inside at metronews.ca/canada

Video Military pays tribute to Trooper Good in Kandahar at metronews.ca/canada

Video Experts predict Canada's economic fortunes will worsen in '09 at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 10, 13, 19, 35, 39 & 41. Bonus 4
These results are not official.

Drop in number of fatal crashes

Sixteen fewer people died on Nova Scotia highways in 2008 than in 2007. In 2008, 83 people died in 75 fatal collisions. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 3



Ivar Mendez, head of neurosurgery at the QEII, gives a demonstration of the new intra-operative Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at the hospital yesterday.

QEII MRI surgery a Canadian first

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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When they pulled a brain tumour out through his nose, Bradley Hamm was hardly aware he was making Canadian medical history.

The 49-year-old from Chester Basin was the first patient to be operated on using the QEII's latest technological advancement: An intra-operative Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine. It's the first of its kind in the country and it was installed in an operating room at the QEII in late October.

"I wasn't really aware at the time how much of a big event it was," Hamm said of his Nov. 25 surgery. "Afterwards, I was made aware I was the first in Canada to have this done, and it was amazing."

"I was made aware I was the first in Canada to have this done, and it was amazing."

Bradley Hamm

The MRI uses a magnet that's one-10th of the strength of a regular MRI, so surgeons can use it in the operating room. It provides surgeons with real-time images during neurological procedures.

Ivar Mendez, head of neurosurgery, said surgeons use it as a road map. It's so advanced that it makes Halifax the best city in the country to have neurosurgery. Already, patients have flown in to have their surgeries done here, he said.

For patients like Hamm, it means less invasive surgery

and faster recovery times. And patients once considered too high-risk may now be candidates for surgery.

The new \$3.5-million gadget was unveiled to the public at a news conference yesterday. It was funded by the QEII Foundation, Capital District Health Authority and the manufacturer, Medtronic Inc.

It will be a one-of-a-kind training tool for medical students, and Mendez said it will attract and retain some of the best minds in the region.

The hospital's reputation is the reason Halifax was picked instead of Toronto, he added.

"We have a track record on neuroimaging in terms of the rest of Canada."

It's been used in six surgeries so far. Mendez said eventually it will be used daily.

News in brief

ROBBERY A woman was robbed on a Metro Transit bus on Tuesday night. Just after 6:30 p.m., a transit supervisor called police to say a woman was robbed by three other women and the suspects were in a nearby fast-food restaurant. Police arrested them and recovered the stolen property. Two 16-year-olds and a 20-year-old will face robbery charges.

CRIME RCMP are investigating an unsuccessful armed robbery in Cole Harbour. Two men attempted to rob the Triple A store on Circassian Drive on Tuesday night. One of the suspects approached the store clerk with a type of

firearm. The employee reached out and grabbed the suspect's arm in self-defence. The suspects pulled away and left the store. Police dogs tracked them to Baran Court, where police believe a vehicle may have been waiting for the suspects.

TOURISM The general manager of Destination Cape Breton has been appointed to the Tourism Partnership Council as the regional tourism industry association representative. Sandra MacDonald was selected by her peers to represent their interests on the council and to represent tourism in Cape Breton.

METRO HALIFAX

Teens accused of spray-painting

CRIME RCMP officers picked up two teens accused of spray-painting dumpsters beside Sackville High School on Tuesday night.

An RCMP officer on patrol noticed two 15-year-olds hanging out by the dumpsters. They tried to walk away when the officer approached. Besides the smell of paint, add to the evidence that one of the kids was carrying a silver spray paint can.

Both of the teens will go through restorative justice and remove the spray paint from the area.

METRO HALIFAX

The first step to a healthy weight loss

Part 2

The importance
of cleansing
your organism.

I have healthy eating habits; do I still need to cleanse my organism?

With the industrial agro-food revolution, our food has completely changed. Today our fruits and vegetables are charged with pesticides, some are genetically modified, for others the list of additives is a little alarming... Colouring: Modifies food appearance, Conservatives: Block the development of pathogenic micro-organism, Antioxidants: Slows food oxidation, Emulsifiers: Increases viscosity, Stabilisers: Prolongs and enhances colour, Artificial aroma: Artificially enhances taste. All this without taking into account the chemical sugars and artificial sweeteners. All of these additives are of course from chemical base. Do we really know their effects, long and short term on the human body?

The elimination organs and their functions.

**COULD THEY BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR MUCH OF WHAT AILS YOU?**

Although there are nine organs of elimination, or emunctory organs, we will focus here on the three most important ones: the liver, the kidneys and the bowels or intestines.

The Liver is the most important organ; it neutralizes toxic substances found in the blood, filters waste from the blood and eliminates these wastes in the form of bile in the bowels.

The kidneys continuously pump out the wastes found in the blood, diluting them in liquid and eliminating them in the form of urine.

The intestines with their length and volume contents, the intestines' role is a very important one. In fact, the quantity of waste that can stagnate, petrify or ferment is enormous and will have a major impact on intoxication especially if there is constipation present.

Whenever an emunctory organ fails to do its job adequately, the result is an accumulation of toxins which prevent the body from functioning as it should.

To be continued on January 11th...

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Canada has not received a ransom demand for a special UN envoy who was abducted in Niger last month, Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said yesterday. Robert Fowler, a former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, and his aide Louis Guay were kidnapped Dec. 14. **REUTERS**

Canada



Red Bull's language barrier

Red Bull Crashed Ice, a race in which skaters in full hockey gear hurl themselves down a very steep, 550-metre chute of ice, has drawn the attention of Quebec's language police. Scheduled to take place in Quebec City on Jan. 24, the race has no French name. The language police have suggested calling the contest "patinage de descente extrême (extreme descent skating)" but have not yet made an official request.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Soldier facing murder charges released on bail

PETAWAWA Canadian Armed Forces Capt. Robert Semrau, charged with second-degree murder in last fall's shooting death of a severely injured Taliban fighter in Afghanistan, was released yesterday from custody.

"I am satisfied on the balance of probability ... that custody is not necessary," Military Judge Lt.-Col.

Louis-Vincent d'Auteuil told the hearing.

After being held for eight days, Semrau showed obvious relief.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

B.C. lays nation's first polygamy charges

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada



Two members of the alleged polygamist community of Bountiful, B.C., including leader Winston Blackmore, were arrested yesterday in what B.C.'s attorney general says is the first time Canada's polygamy law has been enforced.

Blackmore, 52, and James Oler, 44, have been charged with having multiple wives, which is against the law under Section 293 of the Criminal Code.

It's alleged Blackmore has 20 wives and Oler has two.

"I think this situation is intolerable. I don't think

"I think this situation is intolerable. I don't think right-thinking Canadians want this situation to exist."

Wally Oppal, B.C. attorney general

right-thinking Canadians want this situation to exist," Attorney General Wally Oppal said.

"We've always felt that there has been exploitation (in Bountiful)," he added. "The question was whether, given our laws, we were in a position to proceed (with charges), and we determined we were."

The RCMP has been investigating allegations of polygamy and exploitation in the small religious settlement near Creston

for 20 years.

In 2005, Oppal appointed an independent special prosecutor, Terrence Robertson, to determine whether a prosecution was warranted.

He said it's now up to the courts to decide whether the men's rights to religious freedom will trump the laws prohibiting polygamy.

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Toronto Given the boot



COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kimberley Rivera, right, is accompanied by husband Mario and six-week-old Katie yesterday after learning she faces deportation if she does not return to the United States. Rivera was the first female U.S. Iraq war resister to seek asylum in Canada.

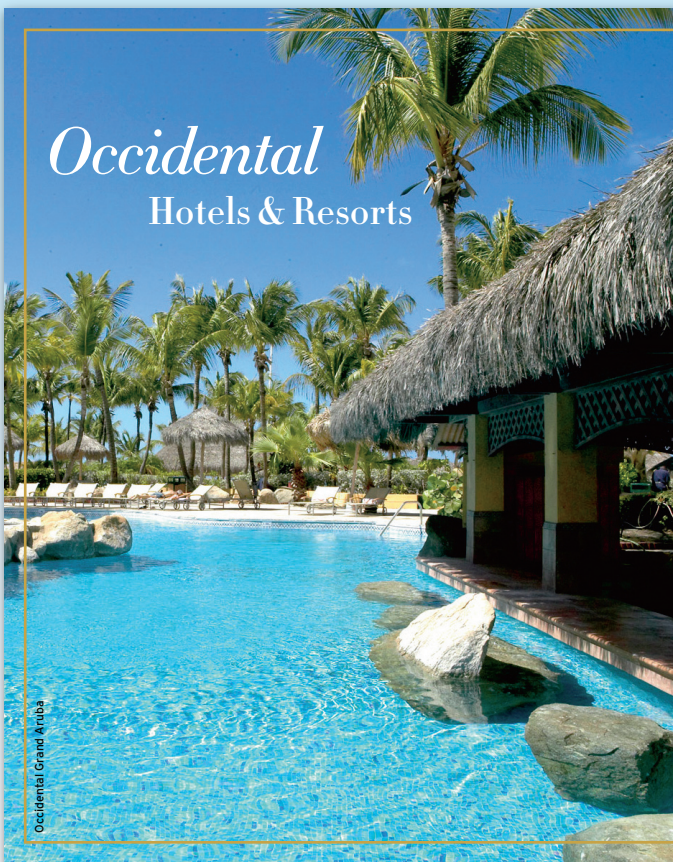
News in brief

AFGHANISTAN A Canadian soldier was killed and three others were injured in southern Afghanistan yesterday when a roadside bomb detonated near their armoured vehicle, military officials said.

LOTTERY The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. yesterday reached a settlement with Thomas Noftall, who thought he had won \$135,000 after purchasing misprinted scratch tickets. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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\$1199

Taxes & fees: \$300

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Japan creates greenhouse gas-monitoring satellite

Japan's space agency will launch a satellite later this month to monitor greenhouse gases around the world, officials said yesterday. The Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT), to be launched on Jan. 21, will enable scientists to calculate the density of carbon dioxide and methane from 56,000 locations on the Earth's surface. **REUTERS**

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World/Business

'Ceasefire' in Gaza urged

Israeli aircraft and tanks pounded the Gaza Strip yesterday and troops battled Palestinian guerrillas as U.S. backing of a proposed truce raised hope of an end to the 12-day-old offensive.

"We believe a ceasefire is necessary," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, adding that she was pressing Israel to move forward with an Egyptian truce proposal.

The assault resumed fiercely after a brief pause to let Gaza's 1.5 million people stock up on supplies.

With both U.S. president George W. Bush and president-elect Barack Obama speaking out on the need for peace, officials said Is-

Ottawa sends aid

- The Canadian government announced yesterday it will provide \$4 million in humanitarian aid to Gaza and repeated calls for an "immediate" ceasefire.

rael had agreed with the "principles" of the Egyptian deal and would send an envoy to Cairo to discuss how to put it into practice, which may yet take time.

However, Israeli ministers put off a decision on whether to launch a new phase of the war. A further 20 people were killed yesterday, bringing total Palestinian deaths to at least 658. **REUTERS**

Singapore Heartbreak on display



Creators of the Museum of Broken Relationships exhibition, Drazen Grubisic and Olinka Vistica, are shown at the exhibit's opening in Singapore yesterday. The museum is a travelling display of items related to failed relationships donated by people who live in the cities the museum has visited. The exhibit has everything from letters and photographs to gifts such as soft toys, but also includes a prosthetic leg from a war veteran who fell in love with his physiotherapist. **REUTERS**

China lawyer makes bold demand for open books

ACTIVISM A high-profile Chinese lawyer demanded yesterday that the government open its books to the public in an unusually direct display of the legal activism that the Communist Party sees as a growing threat to its rule.

Yan Yiming, an attorney who has made his reputation taking on listed companies that misled investors, presented an ap-

plication to the Finance Ministry headquarters demanding that it publish details of its 2008 expenditure and 2009 budget.

China's ruling Communist Party discloses the barest outline of its spending plans to a submissive parliament every year. Yan wants the government to live up to vows of transparency and accountability. **REUTERS**

U.S. Senate Dems move to seat Burris

POLITICS In a sudden switch, U.S. Senate Democratic leaders began talks yesterday about swearing in former Illinois attorney general Roland Burris, nominated by embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich, to take president-elect Barack Obama's place in the Senate.

On Tuesday, Burris was barred from the Senate chamber when he came to take the oath of office.

Senate Democrats originally said Blagojevich's appointment of Burris was tainted since the governor is accused of having tried to sell the seat. **REUTERS**

Business

'Terrible' start to '09, top economists say

The Canadian economy is in for a rough ride through the first half of the year and will see little or no growth in 2009 as the recession takes hold, economists from Canada's largest banks said yesterday.

The economy will also continue to shed thousands of jobs and the unemployment rate will move higher as fallout from the global financial crisis takes its toll.

The comments by a panel of leading domestic bank economists at a Economic Club of Canada event in Toronto, came ahead of key data due tomorrow that is expected to

"The first half of 2009 looks pretty terrible for Canada."

Don Drummond

show the economy shed 22,000 jobs in December. That would follow a loss of 70,600 jobs in November.

"The first half of 2009 looks pretty terrible for Canada," said Don Drummond, chief economist at Toronto-Dominion Bank.

The slowdown in the global economy which wreaked havoc on financial markets is expected to keep weighing on the economy. **REUTERS**

Oil traders playing risky game

DROP Crude oil prices fell 12 per cent yesterday, the largest percentage drop in seven years, after a U.S. inventory report showed a glut in the market.

But the perception there will be a rebound in demand during the second half of the year has some traders playing a high-stakes game — chartering supertankers to purchase

and store huge volumes of inexpensive oil that can be sold on the futures market at a healthy profit.

A barrel of crude plunged \$5.95 US to \$42.63 in New York, backtracking on a week of gains. The decline was blamed largely on a U.S. report that showed crude inventories increased by 6.68 million barrels. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Back rent dispute settled:

Larry MacPherson, CEO of the Sydney Airport Authority, said Tuesday he was happy to have reached a satisfactory agreement with Cape Breton Flight Institute which included a schedule of payment of approximately \$47,000 back rent for a leased hangar. The \$2.3-million Cape Breton Flight Institute was announced in July to train pilots to fly commercial airliners to help fill a worldwide shortage, particularly in Asia. Many of the students are expected to come from China.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Obamania ... for now

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

In the National Museum of American History, the repository of the U.S.'s past, the curators are not waiting for the inauguration of Barack Obama on Jan. 20.

They have already entered his name and face in its gallery of presidents, a permanent exhibition subtitled "A Glorious Burden." There he is, the smiling 44th president of the United States, the last in a glorious — or inglorious — line stretching from George Washington to George W. Bush.

There is that sense of anticipation in Washington, the imperial city seized with Obamania. It is as if the torch has already been passed; in stores and restaurants of F Street, it is all Obama, all of the time.

In the boutique of the Smithsonian Institution — in America they find the money to tell their story in a national history museum and a national portrait gallery — a clutch of new biographies of Mr. Obama are for sale.

A block from the White House, a large souvenir shop offers nothing but Obama memorabilia. Visitors are greeted by life-size cutouts of the man and a replica of the majestic desk that once belonged in the Oval Office of John F. Kennedy (from which his toddler, John Jr., was famously photographed peeking out from a front panel. Now, in doctored images, Mr. Obama's daughters are peeking out).

The president-elect's face is everywhere — on buttons, cuff links, pens, hot sauce, bookmarks, pins, golf balls, champagne

glasses, dish towels, paperweights, T-shirts. This week newspapers are running stories of Mr. Obama vacationing in Hawaii. They report breathlessly he has a great torso.

It is all very silly, but it shows the prominence of the president in politics, and in the zeitgeist, too. As singer Andy Kim once said of Richard Nixon, "he's everybody's daddy for awhile."

Then again, for a country enfeebled at home and encumbered abroad, facing epochal challenges, the prospect of change is a tonic for an ailing soul.

Inaugurations have long been occasions in America, which is always interested in the next new thing. They are a celebration of democracy as much as an affirmation of partisanship, which is why there is that parade, which goes on for hours, followed by all those extravagant balls.

With that comes

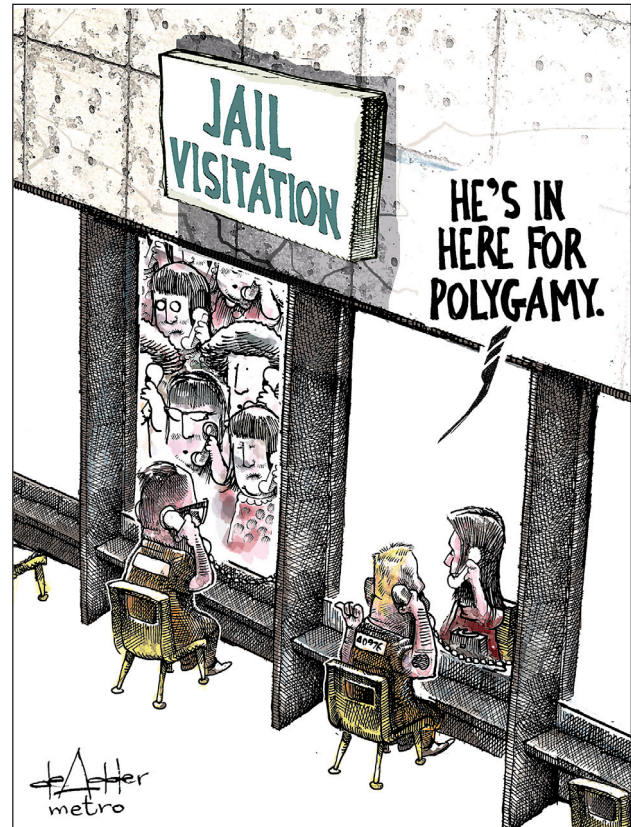
the usual commercialism, which has been around since Washington took the oath of office in 1789. To inaugurate is to commemorate. To commemorate is to sell. No one sells better than Americans.

The inscriptions on all those faux medallions do not say that Barack Obama was the first president born outside the 48 states or that he is the first sitting senator to take office since JFK. It is that Barack Obama is the first black American elected president. It will be the first line of his obituary. The second line, though, will say what he did with it.

The worse things get, the greater the expectations of the new president. His popularity will never be greater than it is today, as he will learn when the parade ends and cheers fade on Jan. 20.

He has been dealt a difficult hand, his burden is great, and it won't always be glorious.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.



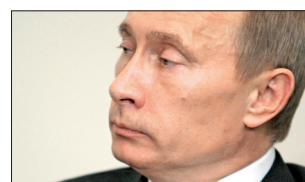
Russia pumps PR muscles in gas conflict with Ukraine

Russia has shown in its gas-price conflict with Ukraine it has learnt some lessons in how to handle the media since being portrayed as the aggressor during a similar dispute in 2006.

Moscow reduced gas supplies to Kiev on Jan. 1, as it did three years ago, cutting flows to European countries which receive gas through Ukraine. But this time, it has fared better in the public relations battle.

Since the dispute in 2006 the Kremlin has hired one of the world's largest public affairs firms, Omnicom.

In 2006, the European Union loudly condemned Moscow and openly questioned Russia's reliability as a supplier. This time Russian



Russian PM Vladimir Putin

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has led Moscow's denunciations of Ukraine's actions during the gas dispute, and Gazprom has launched a website to explain its side of the row — www.gazprom-ukrainefacts.com.

A chief Gazprom's official has also toured European countries, giving briefings and interviews in which he accuses Ukraine of stealing gas meant for Europe.

TOM PERRY/REUTERS

Views

Systemic barriers hurt minorities, business



Wendy Cukier

Diversity is a competitive advantage in the global economy. Canada, with more than 200 ethnic groups speaking more than 100 different languages every day, is considered an inspiration for the rest of the world. But we cannot rest on our laurels. Just two weeks ago, former Ontario chief justice Roy McMurtry and former MPP Alvin Curling released a report on the roots of violence concluding that racism is alive and well. Systemic barriers and the absence of role models can crush the hopes and aspirations of young people. Their

use of the "R" word was deliberate. It makes us bristle, but gets our attention.

Systemic barriers facing visible minorities are not just a problem in "those" neighbourhoods. They affect our governments, our universities and our corporate boardrooms.

The business case for diversity is compelling. In spite of the economic downturn, our aging population and declining birthrate mean that by 2011, all work force growth in Canada will come through immigration. Attracting and retaining immigrants is essential to corporate success. And research shows diversity is good for business — matching the workforce to the communities served helps win the hearts and wallets of consumers.

In 2006, visible minorities were more than 40 per cent of the residents of Toronto and Vancouver; 22.2 per cent of Calgarians and more than 16 per cent of residents in Montreal, Ottawa and Edmonton. But visible minorities, and women, are vastly under-represented in leadership roles. Legislatures, city halls, universities and images of wealth and power dominating the media are dominated by white males.

Many of the barriers to advancement stem from thoughtlessness rather than intention. Most jobs, for example, are never advertised. Employers rely on word of mouth and personal networks. Exclusion from these informal networks, is a huge barrier.

Dr. Margaret Yap, from Ryerson University's Diversi-

ty Institute, co-authored a survey of middle managers in large Canadian corporations and found that visible minorities (and women) are more likely to believe they are held to higher standards of performance and have less mentoring than their white colleagues.

Images of leaders offer role models. They shape goals, expectations and performance. We must watch the gap between our aspirations for a just society and the reality. But clearly the glass is half full. In a short time, Barack Obama has offered a transformative image of leadership, success and power. And we can only hope that more will follow.

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.

Quote of the Day

"It's a regrettable failure for the government to not enforce their own laws, meaning that ordinary Canadians must act."

— Jeh Custer, with the Sierra Club of Canada, who is suing oil giant Syncrude, nine months after 500 migratory birds died in an oil sands toxic tailing pond owned by the oil company, which has so far not faced charges.

METRO CANADA

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Boldin may not play

Arizona Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin, right, rested his injured hamstring yesterday and said he's not sure if he will play in the divisional playoff at Carolina on Saturday. Boldin hurt the hamstring during Arizona's victory over Atlanta last Saturday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Ruutu gets two for biting

NHL The Ottawa Senators' Jarkko Ruutu has been suspended for two games by the NHL because he bit an opponent during a game Tuesday night.

The NHL made the announcement yesterday but didn't give a specific reason for the suspension, although Buffalo forward Andrew Peters said the Ottawa forward bit him through his glove in the first period of the Sabres' 4-2 win.

Ruutu will forfeit \$31,707.32 US in salary and miss a game tonight in Boston and Saturday against the Rangers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

CURLING CFB Halifax's Marie Christianson captured her second straight Nova Scotia junior women's curling crown yesterday. Christianson went 8-2 at the triple-knockout tournament and clinched the title with a win over Danielle Parsons. She advances to the national championship starting Jan. 31 in Salmon Arm, B.C.

SOCCER Bayside's Derek Gaudet finished seventh in voting for the Canadian Soccer Association's male under-20 player of the year. The 19-year-old midfielder made his Major League Soccer debut this season with Toronto FC.

HOCKEY The Saint Mary's Huskies opened the second half of the AUS men's hockey season with a loss. The Huskies lost 4-3 to the St. Francis Xavier X-Men last night in Antigonish.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

QMJHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Cape Breton 3 Gatineau 2
Quebec at Chicoutimi
Rimouski at Drummondville
Rouyn-Noranda at Victoriaville

FRIDAY'S GAMES
HALIFAX at Baie-Comeau
Cape Breton at Acadie-Bathurst
Gatineau at Moncton
Rouyn-Noranda at Quebec
Victoriaville at Drummondville
Lewiston at Shawinigan
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Quebec at **HALIFAX**, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY'S GAME
Montreal at **HALIFAX**, 2 p.m.

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 6 N.Y. Rangers 3
Vancouver at Edmonton

Amyot escapes Dogs' defensive shadow

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



For more coverage of the Mooseheads, visit Matthew Wuest's Q Files blog at www.metronews.ca/qfiles.

It didn't really matter what Pascal Amyot did for the Saint John Sea Dogs. His spot on the defensive depth chart — No. 5 in command — wasn't going to change.

With the Halifax Mooseheads, he has hope for serious ice time, out from the shadow of No. 1 picks Alex Grant, Yann Sauve and Simon Despres, and Czech David Stich.

The 19-year-old arrived in Halifax this week in a trade from the Sea Dogs and is pegged as a key component of the Mooseheads' rebuilding effort on the blue-line.

"For 2½ years, I was working really hard and could not move up," said Amyot, following his second practice with the Mooseheads yesterday.

"I'm really happy I'm a Moosehead now. I really enjoyed my time in Saint John, but sometimes you have to move on, and I'm glad it happened."

Amyot managed to contribute five goals and seven assists in 38 games in

Saint John, but those numbers should climb now that he's a top-four blue-liner in Halifax.

The Mooseheads have coveted Amyot for years, ever since he was pegged as the ninth-best prospect for the 2006 draft by QMJHL Central Scouting. The 6-foot-4, 212-pounder is not overly physical but is solid at both ends of the rink.

He has two more seasons of junior eligibility, and the Mooseheads hope both of them are spent in Halifax.

"I'm going to get a good opportunity to play and improve here," the Quebec City native said.

"I see this as a challenge and I have a good feeling this is the right place for me."

Amyot will make his debut tomorrow night on the road against the Baie-Comeau Drakkar, and has been paired with 19-year-old Ben MacAskill in practice this week.



"Next year, I think we're going to be good," Pascal Amyot said about the Mooseheads yesterday.

Although the Mooseheads are second-to-last in the Q with a 11-26-4 record, Amyot likes the direction they're headed.

"It's a young team, but I think we'll improve a lot," he said.

"Next year, I think we're going to be good."

May trade aside, Leafs' future is with their youth movement

Despite the fact GM **Brian Burke** made it known the Leafs would need to recoup some of the draft picks traded away by his predecessors, his first acquisition results in the loss of another selection.

In bringing in enforcer **Brad May** from his former team in Anaheim (May and Burke were also together in Vancouver), Burke has followed through on his promise to make the Leafs tougher to play against and to be fair, a conditional sixth-round pick in 2010 isn't a huge loss, but it is curious nonetheless.

Speaking of the future, with the world junior championship now complete, I thought it would be a pertinent time to review how some future Maple Leafs fared in Ottawa.

Closest to home and the most successful in the tourney was the GTA's

The Hockey News



own **Chris DiDomenico**, a sixth-round draft pick who now owns a shiny gold medal thanks to Canada's 5-1 win over Sweden. DiDomenico was given a plum spot on a line with fellow Quebec Leaguer **Angelo Esposito** and teen superstar **John Tavares**.

This was essentially Canada's top line (Though **Cody Hodgson**'s line was easily 1A) and DiDomenico made the most of his opportunity, tallying seven points in six games and registering a plus-4 rating.

The natural centre also made the first headline after the tournament when

he was traded to the high-powered Drummondville Voltigeurs from his old squad, the Saint John Sea Dogs.

With Drummondville, DiDomenico has a legitimate shot at playing in the Memorial Cup, an experience that will help further his development.

Always an underdog-type of player — no team in the Ontario League wanted him, which is why he went to the Quebec League — DiDomenico is rising fast in the organization and I wouldn't be surprised to see him starring for the Marlies next year.

On the other side of the coin, 2008 second-rounder **Jimmy Hayes** will also be remembered for helping Canada win gold, but unfortunately he did so as a member of Team U.S.A.

The Boston College freshman scored the second of America's three first-period goals against Canada, but his alleged mocking while skating by



the Canuck bench has been cited as a rallying point for Canada's comeback.

Hayes had one other goal in six games in Ottawa, but it's important to take a long-term view on his game.

As a power-forward, Hayes will hit his stride later than, say, DiDomenico; Hayes is still realizing what he can do with his 6-foot-5, 210-pound frame.

The third Toronto prospect at the tourney was Germany's **Jerome Flaake**, a fifth-rounder from 2008 who tore up his home country's junior circuit last year but has been more modest playing with men this season.

Flaake led the Germans with five points in six games, but since Canada

Odds and ends

- The Halifax Mooseheads will be without top-scoring defenceman Justin Pender for a weekend road trip. Pender, who has 24 points in 41 games, suffered a hip injury on Sunday and is not scheduled to travel to Quebec for games against the Baie-Comeau Drakkar (tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.) and the Chicoutimi Saguenéens (Sunday, 5 p.m.).
- Also questionable are rookie forwards Jessyko Bernard (groin) and Ned O'Brien (flu). Returning to the lineup are forwards Tomas Knotek and Gabriel Desjardins, both of whom were away at international tournaments.
- The trade deadline is today at 1 p.m., and Halifax may be done dealing. Some veterans, such as Pender, are drawing interest, but offers are not believed to be overwhelming.
- Dartmouth's Tyler Noseworthy was traded from the Moncton Wildcats to the Victoriaville Tigres yesterday for a draft pick. The 17-year-old forward will leave the junior A Pictou County Weeks Crushers to report to the Tigres.

plays the most similar game to the NHL (or AHL for that matter), he must be seen as a longer-term project at this point.

At a lower rung of the world juniors, right winger **Mikhail Stefanovich** (98th overall in 2008) put up six points in five games. Not bad, until you consider that his Belarus team beat Estonia 19-1 and bested France 8-2.

Stefanovich did make amends back in North America, however, as the reigning Quebec League player of the week, putting up seven goals (four in one game) and an assist in three contests.

He now has 37 points in 29 games for the Quebec Remparts and will be one to watch as he continues to learn the North American game.

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8

"I like to draw a parallel between dressing your home and dressing yourself," says Samantha Pynn, host of Pure Design. "Just as you wouldn't buy the entire outfit off the mannequin, don't go too crazy with all new things. Work with what you have." **HGTV.CA**

Metro Homes

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Everything in its place

Post-holiday cleanups are never fun, but they're a good chance to pare down

HomeScape

**Sylvia
Putz**

metronews.ca/homescape

you need to efficiently store your holiday decorations.

Protect your breakable or fragile ornaments by packing them into their original containers; failing that, wrap them in protective tissue and place them in plastic cups or similar protective containers.

Wreaths or imitation evergreen boughs should also be packaged in protective plastic or paper.

Load your decorations into clear plastic bins, which are useful and can be used year after year, unlike cardboard containers which will tear and break down after a year or two. Remember to label these bins with a list of what's inside — you'll be extra pleased with yourself when next year's festive season starts.

I don't know about you, but I enjoy seeing cheery Christmas lights into the snowy post-holiday period, for maybe a month or so.



Packing holiday items away into clear containers, such as these Samla bins from Ikea, means you can see what's stored where.

Just don't leave them there too long, because they just don't feel right when people are eagerly anticipating the Easter bunny.

When you do take the lights down, place strings in separate bags before you store the bags in a box. And do not overload — too much weight can crush the lights in the bottom layer.

When it comes to integrating new stuff into your home, remember my sister-in-law's rule that new stuff in means old stuff out. The size of your closet shouldn't change — only its contents change. If there's an item you're not wearing, there's probably a good reason. Trust your gut on this one and pack it into the Sally Ann bag. Then, and only

then, can you hang up your brand new outfit.

Of course, when it comes to gifts, just because you received it doesn't mean you have to keep it. You may decide to return or get rid of it because it just isn't your thing and you can't imagine anyone else ever needing it.

Or, you may decide to keep it for regifting. Just remember to include a little label that lists the name of the person who gave it to you before you store the item. That way, you don't make the embarrassing mistake of giving it back to the person it came from.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show *Arresting Design*; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Inspections: If these walls could talk

After almost a year of living in their new townhouse in Uxbridge, Ont., Libby McCready and her husband figured there was little wrong with their home.

As neither Libby nor her husband had much knowledge or experience with home building or repairs, they hired home inspector Brian Daley to have a look.

"We wanted to make sure we caught everything but we're not handy," says McCready. "Brian found a number of things we never would have noticed. The stuff he found came as a surprise."

The most significant defect Daley found was that the clothes dryer hadn't been vented properly, thus was not blowing outdoors but into insulation, which

Not the whole story

• While builders provide a pre-delivery inspection (PDI) for buyers to note defects, registered home inspector Brian Daley says these are

more geared to cosmetic issues, such as nicks in drywall and whether the right flooring, cabinetry, etc. are provided.

could have eventually caused a moisture and mould issue.

He also noted that the plumbing to a toilet in a seldom-used second bathroom wasn't on the right angle for flushing, that a promised rough-in for an electrical fan for the fireplace was not completed and that attic insulation had been flattened in places.

Armed with Daley's report and digital photos, the McCreadys filled out

the warranty forms they signed before buying by the one-year deadline and as a result, those issues are covered. If they hadn't submitted the report in time, their builder would not have been obligated to repair the defects.

"Although everything turned out fine, I'd never move in to a brand-new house again without having a home inspection done right away," says McCready. "I would have rather had a comprehen-

sive list of the problems from the start, as we'd lived here for almost a year and some of the issues could have caused problems. The inspection was totally worthwhile."

Unfortunately, most new homebuyers mistakenly "believe their new house is perfect," says Daley, when that's seldom the case. Daley and Charters Kenny are both registered home inspectors (RHI).

Other home inspectors have also started offering warranty inspections in addition to their regular inspections of resale homes.

Daley says his company finds an average of 30 defect items during a warranty inspection and Sweeney says his list usually includes 20 to 30.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Food for thought

Whole grain, trans-fat free and low fat items led the charge in terms of products that were eaten by Canadian consumers on a weekly basis with a growing trend towards organic products continuing into 2009, according to the latest Eating Patterns In Canada (EPIC) report from The NPD Group. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

Food

"Is it a pea, a bean, or a pulse? Pulses are the dried edible seeds of legumes and includes beans, peas (such as chickpeas) and lentils."

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada



Not a nut

Peanuts are also a legume, not a nut, despite its name.

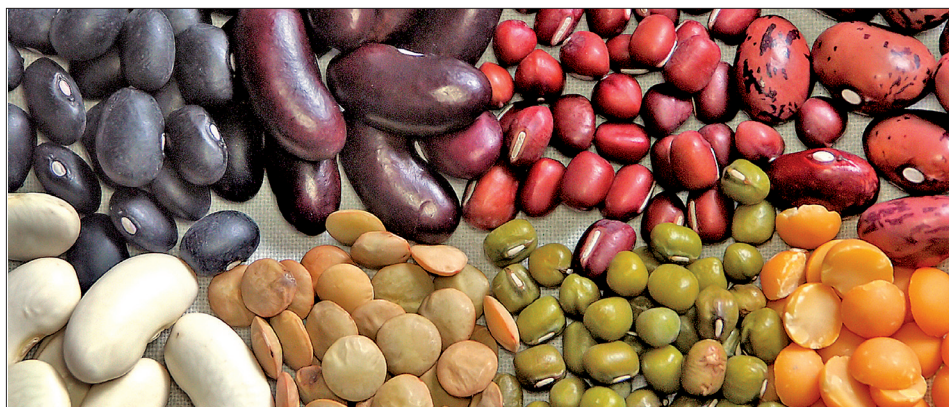
EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Lean and mean: Lentils and beans

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer



Canned beans, peas and lentils can be a bit salty, but a drain and a rinse quickly removes most of the sodium. Toss in salads, soups, casseroles or puree into a dip or spread.

The cake and cookies are finished and the decorations tucked away for another year.

Healthy eating, hand-in-hand with being more physically active, are high on everyone's "to do" list after Jan. 1. So, it's back to business as we tighten our financial belts as well as try to re-tighten the one stretches around our waists.

What's economical, packs a healthy punch in the nutrient ring and is convenient? Canned beans, peas and lentils.

Beans, peas and lentils are a high source of both soluble and insoluble fibre as well as a source of B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorus, potassium and zinc. In addition, they're low in fat, cholesterol free and the richest source of vegetable

protein. With the exception of soybeans, beans alone do not contain all the essential amino acids to be classified as a complete protein. But when complemented with a grain (rice, bread or pasta), a seed, nut or a dairy or egg protein, they become complete.

Keep a variety of canned beans in your pantry for frugal, fast and healthy meals. This vegetarian recipe will satisfy your hunger at the end of a busy day as well as deliciously fulfil your protein needs.

Mediterranean Tomato, Lentil and Spinach Soup

Serve this hearty vegetarian soup with crusty whole wheat bread for a complete meal. I like the sharp and slightly salty addition of freshly grated good Parmesan cheese, but

omit if serving to vegans. Makes 8 cups (2 L), 4 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried basil leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each dried oregano and thyme leaves
- Pinch each dried rosemary leaves, crumbled and pepper
- 3 cups (750 ml) vegetable stock
- 28 oz (796 ml) can diced tomatoes, including juice
- 19 oz (540 ml) can lentils, drained and rinsed
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 3 cups (750 ml) fresh baby spinach leaves
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese, optional

METHOD:

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, celery and garlic and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in seasonings, tomatoes, lentils and lemon juice.

Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered for 5 to 10 minutes. Stir in spinach leaves until wilted, about 30 seconds. Serve with Parmesan, if desired.

Tips:

- Canned beans, peas and lentils can be a bit salty, but a drain and a rinse quickly removes most of the sodium. And, once that's done, they're good to go. Toss in salads, soups, casseroles or puree into a dip or spread.
- If you have whole tomatoes rather than diced, an easy way to cut up tomatoes is using kitchen shears. Pour tomato liquid into soup and cut tomatoes in the can.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

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Tip of the Day: Those who wish to sing, always find a song. — Swedish proverb

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France's first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy has been awarded \$57,500 in damages after she sued a fashion company for adorning a canvas shopping bag with a 1993 nude photo of her. Lawyers for Bruni-Sarkozy have suggested her monetary award would be given to charity. **PEOPLE.COM**

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy wins lawsuit

Style



Woodsy look is being embraced

Paul Bunyan, the supersized he-man, is a fashion icon. As unlikely as it sounds, the mythical lumberjack's black-and-red check jacket has been a big trend on catwalks around the world. But this time around, Ralph Lauren took the rugged masculine checks and turned them into evening gowns, sometimes mixing chic plaid shirts with feathered skirts. Now it's the streetwear retailers who have created new shapes for the lumberjack jacket in sharp, belted trenches and smart peacoats. Left: belted trench, \$158, Gap.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

The gear to get you motivated

Style File

Kim Elbo

kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I prefer running outside as oppose to treadmills, but I dread when it rains because I can't stand when my feet and socks get wet. What do you suggest I do to fix this problem?

Running shoes are primarily made out of mesh materials to make the shoe lighter, but I suggest looking for outdoor trainers that have a Gore-Tex lining (some actually say that on the shoe) to help keep the moisture out.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.



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Designer: Peak Performance
Shop: Peak Performance
peakperformance.com

\$150

Workout Wear

You know you made a new year's resolution to workout more and eat less, so motivate yourself by going out and buying a couple of items for the gym. If you like to cover up, here are three great looks for indoor or outdoor workouts. When you're out shopping for motivation, look for details in the clothing like all-around 360 reflectors for night time running. For shirts, make sure there is a bit of ribbing so that the shirt falls away from your body.

tip: Heat can sap the elasticity from your fitness clothes. To avoid this menace, wash your fitness clothes in cool water, and always opt to drip dry. (mamashealth.com).



Old School

Designer: Nike
Shop: Nike Store
Address: Various Locations
nike.com

\$135



Starter

Designer: asics
Shop: The Run Inn
runinn.com

\$160



Pro

Designer: Mizuno
Shop: Running Room
Address: Various Locations
runningroom.com

\$199

Running Shoes

There are three things to look out for when buying a proper running shoe: The first is to buy a shoe that fits your proper arch type, the second is to make sure the shoe is at least a half size bigger than your regular street shoe (this is to compensate for the swelling of your feet as they heat up) and the third is to make sure you can run with comfort (so sufficient cushioning is needed). Retailer's note that the rule of "breaking in a shoe" does not apply for workout shoes; shoes should be instantly comfortable when coming out of the box.

recruiting.

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The necklace makes a statement

Literally and figuratively — the necklace is big this year. Throughout recent seasons, designers have supersized handbags into steamer trunk proportions. And they've elevated the ordinary stiletto to stratospheric heights.

Now, after achieving such overwhelming bulk with accessories like bags and shoes, they have turned their attention to jewellery — in particular, the necklace.

Leading international brands including Burberry, Lanvin and Louis Vuitton went for the jugular this fall, burdening women's décolleté with glass chunks resembling massive precious and semi-precious stones.

This is costume jewellery gone berserk. So pack away your simple strand of pearls, your heirloom chokers and discreet pendants. You can bring them out another day.

"This is no season for the faint of heart," says Oriella

Stillo, owner of Accessity in Toronto, Ont.

"You've got to have confidence to wear these necklaces," she says.

These muscular necklaces riff on jewel-

ellery's many traditional roles — as an objet for self-decoration, as an amulet to ward off evil and as a striking symbol of personal wealth. They are statement pieces.

While, on the surface, the times may not seem right for such showiness, Stillo insists that's not the case. "During the Depression of the 1930s big Bakelite and Lucite jewellery was popular. Women needed something

to make them feel good," she says.

No one is fooling anyone — which is why the ostentatious necklace with rocks as big as baseballs still works even in this hard economic era.

Stillo says she retails big necklaces as inexpensively as \$250. "What dress can you find that will give you that wow factor?" she asks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Banana Republic Carolyn Brooch necklace, \$124.



GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Golden boys

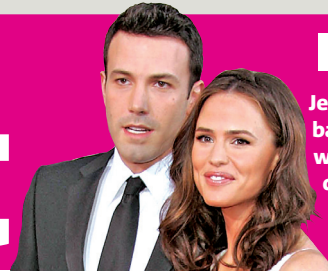
If the Golden Globes run a little bit longer this Sunday, you can blame The Jonas Brothers. Music's hottest trio has been added as presenters for the telecast, along with Hayden Panettiere and Martin Scorsese. IMDB.COM

11

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

**It's a girl!**

Jennifer Garner and husband Ben Affleck have welcomed their second daughter. The baby was born Tuesday in Los Angeles. PEOPLE.COM

Intuition not paying off for Foxx

Jamie Foxx**Album:** Intuition**Label:** Sony**Rating:** ●●●½**LISTENING TO**

MALE R&B stars calling their buddies "dawgs" and their women ... well ... she-dawgs, is getting more than a little irksome. Isn't it about time they stopped measuring their self-worth in Gucci accessories or the length of time they can hold an erection? But these tired refrains continue to raise their ugly heads in the front end of Jamie Foxx's third album, *Intuition*. The Lil Wayne collabora-



tion Number One, is particularly obnoxious. Foxx is, however, an Oscar-winning actor and we can only hope he's acting his way through this sex gangsta image. Fortunately, the rear end of this record is loaded with smoother, subtler, more traditional soul stylings.

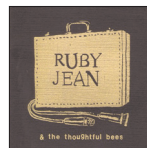
Graham Rockingham
/for Metro Canada



GETTY
IMAGES
FILE

Ruby Jean & The Thoughtful Bees**Album:** Ruby Jean & The Thoughtful Bees**Label:** Youth Club**Rating:** ●●●●

REBEKAH HIGGS' DEBUT solo album last year proved her as a singer-songwriter with an ability to warble roots-like to country fiddle accompaniment. But her feistier dabbings with electronic loops also won her fans in the alternative com-

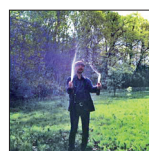
MusicReviewsmusic@metronews.ca

munity. Higgs shows another side of her art as vocalist for the Halifax electro dance ensemble Ruby Jean & The Thoughtful Bees. This odd collective of Haligonians is led by the synth-beats of Colin Crowell, the real drum rhythms of Sean MacGillivray (Jenn Grant) and the guitar effects of Jason Vautour (Jon Epworth). It works, in a trippy way that's best listened to while dancing in the dark.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Andre Ethier**Album:** Born on Blue Fog**Label:** Blue Fog/Sonic Unyon**Rating:** ●●●½

UNTIL NOW Andre Ethier's best work has been with his former band The Deadly Snakes. Since then he's released a few solo albums, all of which have been decent, but nowhere near as good as this. With a musical range that echoes Dylan (Cop Killer), blues (Infant King) and a haunting Leonard Cohen with classical instruments number (By The Stables) this is easily Ethier's most eclectic and inspiring.



Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Ketch Harbour Wolves**Album:** Dead Calm Horizon**Label:** Independent**Rating:** ●●●½

WITH THE NATIONAL garnering so much praise these days, it was only a matter of time before a similar sounding Canadian act got noticed. Ketch Harbour Wolves, a Toronto-based five-piece with roots in Nova Scotia have forged the perfect mix of brooding passion, infectious melodies and rich, layered instrumentation. While it's not perfect — a couple tunes are a bit sluggish — it's definitely a promising debut.



Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Power of the people

AWARDS The people spoke and *Dark Knight* was the big winner at the 35th annual People's Choice Awards, taking home trophies in all five of its nominated categories — including favourite movie of 2008.

It was an exercise in the power of the popular vote last night, as the best of movies, music and TV were honoured during the award broadcast — the first of the 2009 award show season.

"This past year, we have all seen what the power of the people can do," show host Queen Latifah said at the start of the two-hour award

For a complete list of People's Choice Award-winners visit metronews.ca/entertainment

show.

"The answer tonight is, 'Yes we can,'" the Grammy-winning singer and movie star said as she walked along the front row of the Shrine Auditorium in L.A., asking Adam Sandler, Robin Williams, the TV doctors on *House* and Kid Rock to proclaim the slogan used by president-elect Barack Obama during his electoral campaign last year.

Sandler, the star of *Bed-*

time Stories, took home the first award of the evening, for funny male star, beating Steve Carell and Jim Carrey for the honour.

"I have always honestly made my movies for the people. If I made my movies for the critics I would have hung myself 40 years ago," Sandler said after accepting the award from TV talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

27 Dresses won favourite movie comedy, betting out *Mamma Mia!* and *Get Smart*, while *Four Christmases*' Reese Witherspoon won for favourite female movie star and Will Smith was named favourite male action star.

Carrie Underwood felt the power of the popular vote as the winner of favourite star under 35 — a new award this year. It was followed by a performance by the Season Four winner of *American Idol*.

Other early winners included *Dancing with the Stars* for best TV competition/reality show, Jordan Sparks and Chris Brown in the combined force music duo category — Brown also won the male singer award — and DeGeneres as favourite TV talk show host.

"To my roommate, Portia, thank you very much as well," DeGeneres joked about her spouse, Portia De Rossi, during her acceptance speech. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Ellen DeGeneres accepts the award for favourite talk show host at the 35th annual People's Choice Awards in L.A. last night.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE STORM



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Brit pair Pegg-ed for classic Tin Tin role
Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz stars Simon Pegg, shown, and Nick Frost are set to star as the characters Thomson and Thompson in a big screen adaptation of the Tin Tin books. IMDB.COM



Right: Buddy Dor-
rington and Charli
Muise sharing a
drink (and a chair)
at Peddlers Pub.



Above, from left: Brandy
Comeau, Alisha Haynes, and
Mitchell Diamond at Peddlers
Pub. Above right: Johnston &
Johnston! Meaghan Johnston
and Ashley Johnson party at
Bubbles Mansion.

Right: Lindsay Hallman, left,
Tyler Carter, and birthday girl
Shannon John-ston celebrate
on the dance floor at Bubbles
Mansion.



Left: Sarah Mac-
Donnell (left)
celebrates her
20th at
Peddlers Pub
with Kirby
Landry (rear)
and Brigid Dun-
phy.



Left: Frankie
Arab, left, tin-
kles the ivories
with Cyril
Sampson at the
mayor's New
Year Levee.



His Worship Pe-
ter Kelly (sport-
ing some seri-
ous bling) with
District 12 Coun.
Dawn Sloane at
the mayor's
New Year Levee.

Moose milk, levees and a whole lot of snow

HalifaxScene

Jamie
Paterson



As much as I love the Christmas season, let me be the first to say I'm glad it's over! The Scene has been touch and go over the past few weeks. Usually Friday night is my night to make the rounds of the popular night spots in Metro. The past two Fridays have been dead, to say the least.

On Boxing Day, your Scene servant made his way to Neptune Theatre to catch one of the final performances of Scrooge. Jeremy Webb was outstanding in the one-man show, which also featured puppets and Cirque du Soleil-style acrobatics.

I look forward to making this a holiday tradition, but sadly, my Scene spies tell me Webb may be looking to pull up stakes and move on in the

new year.

After the show, my plan was to cruise the nightlife, but there was nary a soul to be seen. Folks were already tucked in their beds with visions of Boxing Day sales dancing in their heads!

The following Friday, I didn't fare much better. Most were still recovering from New Year's celebrations and the rest of us were still trying to dig out from the blizzard.

A quick check of the regular haunts found a birthday party at Bubbles Mansion, but a tipster told me the real party that night was at Peddlers Pub. Sure enough, the place was hopping. Whatever the draw, it was enough to lure Bubbles from his Mansion, as Mike Smith was spotted doing a little post New Year's partying at Peds.

The New Year's Eve blizzard put a huge damper on the traditional levees held across metro.

Before moving to this part of the country, I hadn't heard much about the levee and had to do some research. It turns out the levee dates back to France

and the time of Louis XIV.

In Canada, fur traders in the 1640's would pay their respects to the master of the fort on New Years Day. Later on, the levee was an opportunity for the residents of New France to meet the governor and catch up on events in Europe. In turn, the settlers were expected to renew their pledges of allegiance to the Crown.

These days, the military and government representatives of all levels hold levees, and it's purely a social event. Nevertheless, I paid my respects to the master of city hall and got caught up on the British football standings.

This year the tradition, took a back seat to Mother Nature and the city held its levee last Sunday afternoon, four days late. The mayor and councilors were out in full force greeting the New Year and residents.

Now if someone could explain this whole "moose milk" thing to me, I'll be set!

When he's not making the Scene, Jamie Paterson hosts The Drive and The Beatlebrunch on KOOL FM in Halifax



Above: Miami fan Ron
Blundon, left, watches the NFL
playoffs with Broncos support-
er Craig Kelly at Bubba Ray's.



Above: Michael John fills the
glass of District 8 Coun. Jackie
Barkhouse at the mayor's New
Year Levee at City Hall.

No time for sleep

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

TV TORTURE: Since sleep deprivation is widely considered a form of torture these days, it's ironic that Global is celebrating the return of the hit espionage series 24 and its cigar-cutter and plastic-bag-wielding antihero Jack Bauer with a record-breaking viewing marathon that will require nine fans of the show to prove their worthiness by staying awake for all six seasons.

On the sunny afternoon when the marathon begins, the contestants are getting their final instructions just next to the raised dais in the middle of Toronto's Yorkdale shopping mall where they'll spend the next six days and nights trying to keep their eyes open and fixed on Jack Bauer's ongoing adventures on the TV in front of them.

On the stage they've already set out their survival essentials in or around the big, temptingly cozy La-Z-Boy loungers given to Global for the event — tissues and lip balm, water bottles, purses, hoodie sweatshirts and some ill-advised pillows and fleece blankets. According to the contest rules, they have to keep their eyes open and focused on the TV in front of them for all 108 hours of the series if they want a chance at the \$24,000 cash prize.

"I'm actually looking at it as a mini holiday," says Marni Hefner, a 35-year-old mother of two who lives just near the mall. "I lead a pretty hectic life and sometimes I just need a break, so I'm looking at this as time by myself watching my favourite show on television. Hopefully I get through because I could really use the money."

The longest anyone has ever watched TV continuously is 69 hours and 48 minutes, a record that whoever's left awake will break early Friday evening, but the Guinness Records people have allowed 15-minute breaks every three hours. Sleep deprivation can cause anything from delirium and constipation to tremors, but the moment the scrutineers see a head



These fans are trying to spend six days and nights watching 24.

nod or two eyes close, a contestant is disqualified. A publicist confides to me that they're out the moment they soil themselves or their chair.

"I did a little bit of research on the Internet," says Matt Clark, a 23-year-old security guard at Sears. "The 15 minute breaks we get are pretty crucial. I've got the willpower — I was in cadets so I know how to control myself. You've got to control your adrenaline because \$24,000 is nothing to laugh at."

"I thought at first I'd take little power naps during the 15 minute breaks," says Sylvie Lamoureux, a 48-year-old Wal-Mart cashier

from Chatham, "but I won't because I know I'll just feel worse."

Twenty-four hours later, just one contestant leaves after paramedics express concern about her heart rate, but the other eight are holding on. "About two or four o'clock this morning, I was just rolling back my head," says Marni Hefner. "I need a jolt of energy to get through this."

"The last little bit before the break I hit the brick wall," says Matt Clark as the break ends. "I came over that brick wall and now it's smooth sailing."

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Rod Black (TSN) ...and more!*

* Players are subject to change.

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|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---|---|------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1/8/09 | 31 | 31 | 31 | ABC | News (N) | ABC Wild News | Inside Edition | Chronicle | Ugly Betty (N) | Grey's Anatomy (N) | Practice | |
| | 7 | 7 | 7 | ASN | The Road to Avonlea | Instant Star | TMZ (N) | Wanna Be? | | Eleventh Hour "Frozen" | Practice | |
| | 11 | 11 | 11 | CBC | Coronation St. | Jeopardy! (N) | The Nature of Things | Doc Zone (HDTV) (N) | CBC News: The National | The Hour | | |
| | 2 | 2 | 2 | CBC-F | Union-force | Pyramide (SC) | Virginie (SC) | Une journée | À la recherche de Champlain | M pour musique (N) (SC) | Le Téléjournal | |
| | 32 | 32 | 32 | CBS | News (N) | Evening News | The Insider (N) | Entertainment | CSI: NY (HDTV) | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | Eleventh Hour | |
| | 69 | 69 | 69 | CFTM | TVA 18 heures | Le Cercle (SC) | Petit monde de Laura Cadieux | Messmer, le fascinateur (N) | Claudine Mercier | TVA 22 heures | | |
| | 6 | 6 | 6 | CHIF | Entertainment | ET Canada | The Unit | Life | The Office | Billable Hours | News (N) | |
| | 9 | 9 | 9 | CJCH | etalk | Hollywood | ER "Separation Anxiety" | CSI: NY (HDTV) | Grey's Anatomy (N) | News (N) | | |
| | 10 | 10 | 10 | ELTV | (6) EastLink Television | | | Podium TV | EastLink Television | | | |
| | 36 | 36 | 36 | FOX | Deal-No Deal | The Simpsons | Two/Half Men | Foot. Pregame | College Football FedEx BCS National Championship -- Florida vs. Oklahoma. | | | |
| primetime | 12 | 12 | 12 | NBC | News (N) | NBC News | Hollywood | Extra (N) | Name Is Earl | Kath & Kim (N) | The Office | 30 Rock |
| | 29 | 29 | 29 | NW | World News | Business | CBC News | Newman | The Hour Russell Peters. | CBC News: The National | Nature-Things | (11:01) ER |
| | 4 | 4 | 4 | PBS-B | NewsHour With Jim Lehrer | Greater Boston | Basic Black | Ken Burns American Stories | Ken Burns American Stories | Ask This Old | Michigan | Human Face |
| | 35 | 35 | 35 | PBS-D | NewsHour With Jim Lehrer | Business Rpt. | Worldfocus | This-House | Yankee Shop | | | |
| | 68 | 68 | 68 | TQS | (6:30) Le Retour (SC) | Grande fille | Un monde bête | Le Poids du passé (1996, Drame) Michael Ontkean. | | | | 110 pour cent |
| | 23 | 96 | 96 | BNN | Business News | Headline | Market Call | GetConnected | Business News | Squeeze Play | Market Call | |
| | 18 | 18 | 18 | CNN | (5) The Situation Room | Lou Dobbs Tonight | Commodities | Campbell Brown: No Bias | Larry King Live | Cooper 360 | | |
| | 54 | 54 | 54 | GOLF | PGA Tour Golf Mercedes-Benz Championship -- First Round. From the Plantation Course at Kapalua in Kapalua, Hawaii. (Live) | | | | | | | |
| | 52 | 52 | 52 | RSE | Prime Time Sports | NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Boston Bruins. (Live) | | | | Overtime | Sportsnet Con. | |
| | 55 | 55 | 55 | SCOR | Hockey Talk | Game On | Score on NFL | Cabby Unlimit | Poker: Canadian Open | Poker Million Pound Challenge. | Score Tonight | |
| news | 45 | 45 | 45 | SPD | Unique Whips | Pinks (HDTV) | Pass Time | Pinks -- All Out | Pinks -- All Out | | Wrecked | |
| | 53 | 53 | 53 | TSN | Off the Record | SportsCentre | That's Hockey! | College Football | FedEx BCS National Championship -- Florida vs. Oklahoma. | | | |
| | 43 | 43 | 43 | FAM | Zoey 101 | Life Derek | Wizards-Place | That's Raven | Zack & Cody | Natural-Sadie | Han. Montana | Life Derek |
| | 44 | 44 | 44 | TOON | Ben 10 | Johnny Test | Totally Spies | Total Drama | 6teen | 6teen | Misadventures | Futurama |
| | 26 | 26 | 26 | TREE | Max & Ruby | Backyardigans | Ni Hao, Kai-lan | Night Grdn | Toot & Puddle | Franklin | Little Bear | Maggie-Beast |
| | 27 | 27 | 27 | YTV | Drake & Josh | iCarly | Scorpion | Prank Patrol | Malcolm-Mid. | Futurama | Adrenaline Proj | Prank Patrol |
| | 16 | 16 | 16 | A&E | The First 48 (HDTV) | The First 48 | | The First 48 (HDTV) | The First 48 (HDTV) | | | The First 48 |
| | 70 | 70 | 70 | APTN | News | Suaangan | Wapos Bay | By the Rapids | renegadeexpress | The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1990, Comedy) | | |
| | 50 | 50 | 50 | BET | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live) | Notorious B.I.G. Bigger Than Life (2007, Documentary) | | | | Premiere. | Gangster | |
| | 37 | 37 | 37 | BRVO | Street Legal "Faking It" | Camera | Snapshot | Bathroom Divas-Opera Star | Johnny Tootall (2005, Drama), Alex Rice | | | |
| family | 25 | 25 | 25 | CMT | Sessions | CMT 4 Tracks | Hottest Women of Country | Home Improve. | Home Improve. | Reba | Reba | Hope & Faith |
| | 49 | 49 | 49 | COM | Laughs | Comedy Now | Air Farce | Just for Laughs | Corner Gas | The Simpsons | South Park | VIP |
| | 153 | 153 | 153 | COURT | Truth, Duty, Valour | World's Wildest Police Videos | Cops Uncut | Dumb Criminal | Aggro "Cold Hard Cash" | Connected (N) | Police Videos | |
| | 38 | 38 | 38 | DISC | How It's Made | How It's Made | Daily Planet (N) | Human Toolkit (N) | Connected (N) | MythBusters | | |
| | 34 | 48 | 48 | HGTV | Holmes on Homes | House Hunters | Property Virgin | Holmes on Homes | The Fix | Disaster DIY | Home to Flip | |
| | 46 | 46 | 46 | HIST | Deep Wreck Mysteries | NCIS "Shalom" | Lost Worlds | Deep Wreck Mysteries | Deep Wreck Mysteries | NCIS | | |
| | 17 | 17 | 17 | MM | Meet Barkers | Meet Barkers | Gossip Girl | Degrassi: Next | Degrassi: Next | Brooke Knows | Brooke Knows | Gossip Girl |
| | 19 | 19 | 19 | MMM | MusicProfile | mmmtop10.com | Back In | AC/DC: No Bull | AC/DC: No Bull | Revival | Tommy Lee | |
| | 201 | 201 | 201 | M1 | (6:45) Feel the Noise (2007, Drama) | (8:25) You Belong to Me (2007) | | | | The Secret (2007, Suspense) | | |
| | 48 | 23 | 23 | OLN | American Gladiators | Bounty Hunter | Dakar Rally | Survivorman | Mantracker | Friends | Bounty Hunter | |
| cable variety | 51 | 51 | 51 | PEACH | Seinfeld | Friends | House-Payne | Friends | Friends | Friends | The Recruit | |
| | 206 | 206 | 206 | PIX | (6) Vanilla Sky ** (2001, Suspense) | (8:25) Denver & Rio Grande (1952) | | | | End of Days * (1999, Horror) | | |
| | 67 | 67 | 67 | RDI | RDI en direct | RDI en direct | 24 Heures en 60 minutes | Grands reportages (SC) | Le Téléjournal (SC) | RDI en direct | | |
| | 39 | 39 | 39 | SHOW | Wife Swap | The Outer Limits | Til Debt-Part | Rich Poor | Bulging Brides | Bulging Brides | Last 10 | Last 10 |
| | 40 | 40 | 40 | SLICE | (6) The Biggest Loser | Lost (Part 2 of 2) | Lost | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N) | | |
| | 14 | 14 | 14 | SPIKE | CSI: NY (HDTV) | The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N) | LA Ink "Kat Tales" | LA Ink (HDTV) | LA Ink "Funny Farm" | LA Ink | | |
| | 57 | 98 | 98 | STAR | etalk | Hollywood | Make or Break | Naked Fashion | Family Guy | Seinfeld | Raymond | Family Guy |
| | 21 | 21 | 21 | TLC | What Not to Wear | Que-champion | Journal de Fr2 | Murder, She Wrote | Waiting for God | Keeping Up | When Harry Met Sally... **** (1989) | |
| | 56 | 34 | 34 | TROP | What Happen? | What Happen? | Make or Break | Naked Fashion | Family Guy | Seinfeld | Raymond | Family Guy |
| | 20 | 20 | 20 | TV5 | Que-champion | Journal de Fr2 | Fourchette et sac à dos | Club social | Envoyé spécial "Chasseurs de crus" | | | |

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

critics' corner

The Office

When Oscar (Oscar Nunez) informs Michael (Steve Carell) that the office must spend a \$4,300 cash surplus or lose it in the next year's budget, Michael opens the floor to suggestions, causing factions to break out and pitting office mates against one another in their efforts to get what they want. 10 PM on CIHF, NBC



The Nature of Things

Columbus was looking for India. The folks who created Viagra were looking for a high-blood-pressure treatment. In "Gone Sideways," host David Suzuki surveys a number of discoveries and breakthroughs that happened by accident, including some revolutionary cures for diseases and the invention of the X-ray machine. 8 PM on CBC

Doc Zone

Divorce is painful, but it doesn't have to be life-threatening to the children's psyches. The new documentary "How to Divorce & Not Wreck the Kids" follows three couples striving to make their breakups as easy as possible on their offspring. One couple is going the do-it-yourself route, another is using a mediator, and the third is employing "collaborative divorce," in which their respective attorneys work together. 9 PM on CBC



Charmed actress Alyssa Milano is engaged to top Hollywood agent, David Bugliari. The pair has been together for over a year, and Bugliari proposed to the actress just before Christmas, according to usmagazine.com. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Milano headed for marriage

Celebrity Buzz

I didn't know marriage was fake: Spencer

MARRIAGE Spencer Pratt acknowledges that his marriage to Heidi Montag was fake — but only because he was uninformed, in-touchweekly.com reports.

"I didn't even know you have to legalize a wedding," claims Spencer, who tied the knot with Heidi, 22, in a nonbinding ceremony on Nov. 19 in Mexico. "I thought growing up, you say 'I do' and you're married."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna sporting rock on finger

RELATIONSHIP R&B sensation Rihanna may be ready to tie the knot with singer Chris Brown.

The pair — who has never publicly confirmed their relationship — performed at Elton John's New Year's Eve bash in London, where Rihanna was spotted sporting fingerless leather gloves that made it easier to see a massive diamond ring on her wedding ring finger.

Brown allegedly popped the question over the New Year, according to Britain's the Sun newspaper.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Weight loss no big deal: Kristen

HEALTH Even though 3rd Rock From the Sun alum Kristen Johnston dropped a 60 lbs., her pal Sarah Jessica Parker didn't get why everyone made such a fuss, usmagazine.com reports.

"She said to me, 'It's so weird all this press is happening to you because you're the only actress I've ever met who doesn't have a body issue at all,'" Johnston, 41, told usmagazine.com at the NYC premiere of Bride Wars.

The six-foot star was spurred to lose weight after and change her eating habits suffering a burst ulcer last year.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

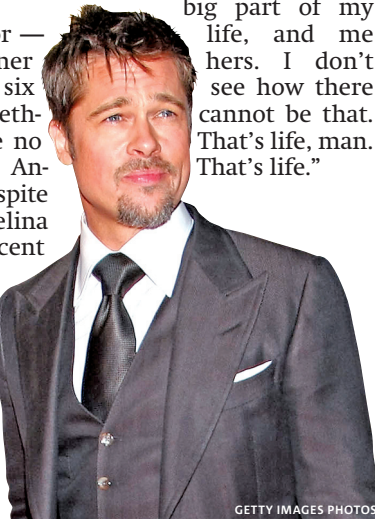
No bad feelings between Jen and Angie, Brad says

RELATIONSHIP Brad Pitt says ex-wife Jennifer Aniston is a "sweetheart," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 44-year-old actor — who lives with partner Angelina Jolie and the six children they raise together — insists there are no bad feelings between Angelina and Jennifer, despite Jennifer calling Angelina "very uncool" in a recent interview.

The website quotes Brad as saying: "Listen, man, Jen is a sweetheart. I think she got dragged into that one, and then there's a second round to all that Angie

versus Jen. It's so created. Jen and I still check in with each other. She was a big part of my life, and me hers. I don't see how there cannot be that. That's life, man. That's life."



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Brad also denied claims he and Angelina started dating while he was still with Jennifer, insisting reports they began a relationship on the set of 2005 movie Mr. and Mrs. Smith were false.

He added to W magazine: "What people don't understand is that we filmed Mr. and Mrs. Smith for a year. We were still filming after Jen and I split up. Even then it doesn't mean that there was some kind of dastardly affair. There wasn't. I'm very proud of the way that it was handled. It was respectful."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

George and Paris together?

RELATIONSHIP Life & Style and In Touch are both claiming the "down to earth" Paris Hilton has been cozying up to George Clooney, msn.com reports.

Seems the typically brunette-preferring, two-time Sexiest Man Alive, 47 — who split from Las Vegas cocktail waitress Sarah Larson in May — and Hilton, 27 — who called it quits with "best friend" Benji Madden in November — were twice spotted out together in Los Angeles last month.

The first sighting took place on Dec. 19 at the Whiskey

Bar, where George and Paris supposedly chatted, downed drinks, flashed their pearly whites and maintained constant eye contact, msn.com says.



"They were laughing and smiling at each other throughout the night," a spy tells L&S, with another adding to In Touch, "They were gazing into each other's eyes and smiling and laughing."

The following night, the implausible pair was reportedly seen breaking bread at Dan Tana's with an eclectic group of stars and friends.

"Paris was flirting big-time," an eyewitness recalls to In Touch. "And George was soaking it up." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Baby stress for Jennifer and Marc

MARRIAGE Solo trips to Las Vegas, public appearances without their wedding rings — what's up with Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez? According to those who observed them on a holiday vacation to Puerto Rico, nothing, people.com reports.

The couple, who left for their romantic jaunt on Dec. 26, rang in 2009 poolside at La Concha Hotel, reports the Puerto Rico newspaper El Voce.

People.com says that on their trip, the couple also attended the gubernatorial inauguration and had a cozy dinner together at Marmalade restaurant in Old San Juan.

What's more, a reliable source

tells People magazine that Lopez, 39, and Anthony, 40, are seriously considering purchasing property at Trump's International Golf Club Puerto Rico, where they took a tour over the holiday.

While both

their reps tell the magazine that the couple is "great," insiders indicate that their marriage isn't perfect. "They have been having problems, like in any marriage," says one. "They've been arguing."

The likely cause? The growing pains that come with raising 10-month-old twins Max and Emme, people.com said.

"The marriage is experiencing frustrations because of the added stress of the twins," says another source familiar with the situation, "but they will work things out. They love each other, and that will dictate what happens. I don't think divorce is in the picture."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Britney loses control

PEOPLE It's official: Britney Spears cannot take care of herself. According to Access Hollywood, court papers have been filed giving her father, Jamie, permanent control of her finances and personal life.

Jamie was given temporary control in October. The papers state that Britney "is substantially unable to man-

age ... her financial resources or to resist fraud or undue influence."

They also describe the singer "is unable properly to provide for his or her personal needs for physical health, food, clothing, or shelter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



No custody battle, Jodie hopes

LEGAL Jodie Sweetin and estranged husband Cody Herpin "are working hard to avoid a protracted custody battle," the actress's lawyer tells people.com

The former Full House star, 26, and Herpin, 31, attended their first joint mediation session this week at an Orange County, Calif., court.

"They're trying to work things out regarding the sharing of their

child," attorney Wilma Presley says. "As far as reconciliation as a couple goes, in family law, you just never know."

Despite recent court drama, "Jodie is doing very well," Presley adds. "She had a very nice Christmas. She had her daughter on Christmas Eve and morning, and so far, the sharing has been smooth."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Pink wants to give away ex

RELATIONSHIP Pink wants to give her estranged husband away if he marries again, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer has revealed she and Carey Hart have remained close since they separated last year, and she would support him if he ever decides to commit to someone else.

Pink, 29, said: "I told him that I would give him away at his next wedding."

The couple announced they were planning to

divorce in February 2008 after two years of marriage.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hathaway hates weddings

PEOPLE Anne Hathaway hates weddings, despite starring as a battling bride in new film, Bride Wars, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who split from former fiancé Raffaello Follieri after he was arrested and jailed for fraud, says, "Weddings have never really been my thing. I really have never thought about it. I just want a good hus-

band ... (but) I don't date that much."

Instead, she would rather skip the wedding day charade in the hope of living a happier life.

The website notes this comes as a shock, as Hathaway, 28, has appeared in a string of wedding films including Rachel Getting Married, The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Crossword across

1 Heche or Hathaway

5 Kine

9 Aries

12 “Groovy”

13 “Hi, sailor!”

14 First lady?

15 “Becker” star

17 Part of DJIA

18 Record container

19 Go on all fours

21 Concerning

22 Plant louse

24 Nose

lengtheners?

27 Snake eyes

28 Lummoxes

31 Antiquated

32 Toward the stern

33 Savings acronym

34 Puff

36 Greek consonants

37 Let fall

38 Dynamite inventor

40 Author Milne

41 Dictation taker

43 Not quite

47 Spoon-bender

Geller

48 “Deliverance” actor

51 Puppeteer

Baird

52 Canal zone

53 Dance lesson

54 Fa-la link

55 Hourglass fill

56 Japanese zither

Crossword down

1 Gospels’ follow-up

2 Yuletide refrain

3 Protuberance

4 Respectable people?

5 Chaplin prop

6 Surprise cries

7 Court

8 Simultaneity

9 Famed oilfield firefighter

10 Acknowledge

11 Kitten’s remark

16 Rd.

20 “Flying Down

to —”

22 Terrible

23 Cookware

24 High-arc shot

25 Under the weather

26 Al Bundy’s portrayer

27 Domesticate

29 To and —

30 Tree fluid

35 Took the prize

37 Grayish red

39 Skeleton components

40 Milwaukee product

41 Long lunches

42 Small combo

43 Sleeping

44 Sgt. Snorkel’s dog

45 Undo a dele

46 Glitch in print

49 Historic time

50 Cacophony

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

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Find today’s answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](#)

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min

13-17 min

.....Genius

.....Scholar

17-21 min

21-25 min

25+ min

.....Smart

.....Not bad

.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Pork chops with parsnips and maple pear wedges

INGREDIENTS:

4 lean pork chops, trimmed of fat

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh sage

1/2 tsp (2 ml) fennel seeds, roughly crushed

1/4 cup (60 ml) balsamic vinegar

2 red onions, quartered

4 potatoes (about 1 lb/500 g in total), peeled and quartered

2 large parsnips, peeled and quartered lengthways

1 large pear, ripe but firm

2 tbsp (25 ml) maple syrup

METHOD:

1. Place chops in wide dish. Sprinkle over oil, garlic, sage, fennel seeds and 2 tbsp (25 ml) balsamic vinegar. Turn to coat evenly, then cover and place in refrigerator to marinate for 1 hour.

2. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). Combine onions,

potatoes and parsnips in large roasting pan. Add pork chops with marinade and turn vegetables to coat evenly. Spread out vegetables in a single layer, with chops on top. Season to taste. Roast for about 40 minutes until vegetables are tender and golden.

3. Core pear and cut into eight slices. Toss in remaining balsamic vinegar and maple syrup. Remove roasting pan from oven and arrange pear slices over chops, spooning over syrup mixture.

4. Return to oven and roast for a further 10–12 minutes until pears are tender. Serve pork chops topped with pear slices and juices, with roasted vegetables alongside.

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](#) or check out Key Ingredients in this month’s Reader’s Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



A commotion forces you to look for an adviser. A bullying fool comes between you and an outsider. You’ll enjoy an unforgettable day.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



Someone’s attention puts a sparkle in your eye. A friendly employer has a hidden agenda. Unusual risks will be taken by the usual person.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



You’ll influence a thoughtful person. A woman will give you a moving response. A relevant call will change your opinion.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



A wise guy’s chatter will exhaust you. Don’t make the first move when you’re doubtful. A know-it-all wants to make a good impression.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



You’ll ditch a fruitless task. A thin guy is in a crude predicament. Somebody can help you in a boring situation.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



A woman won’t hide her feelings. Someone is just begging for more attention. A thoughtless person will tease you.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



A collector wants to concentrate on the good news. A companion gives you a fine gift. Financial opportunities will gratify a senior.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



You’ll witness some moments of bad behaviour. A schemer wants to spend time with you. You’ll be able to tolerate a lack of sympathy.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



An awkward man disputes a change. You’ll feel like you’re moving the wrong way. Pleasure can be shared with a rebel.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Something serious takes place. Political issues cause talk of tribulation. A magnetic man will prove to be trustworthy.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



Keep a straight face when someone asks you to pay. Don’t mess around with a miracle worker. A whiny friend needs to see a therapist.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



A suspicious person has lousy luck. Pay no heed to disgruntled people. You’ll find a way to avoid temptation.

This day in history

JAN. 8, 1790: George Washington delivers the first State of the Union Address in New York City.

JAN. 8, 1835: The United States’ national debt is \$0 for the only time.

JAN. 8, 1940: World War II: Britain introduces food rationing.

JAN. 8, 1959: Fidel Castro’s Cuban Revolution is completed with the take over of Santiago de Cuba.

JAN. 8, 1994: Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov on Soyuz TM-18 leaves for Mir. He would stay on the space station until March 22, 1995, for a record 437 days in space.

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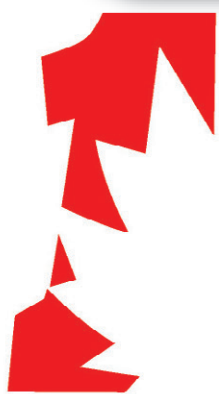
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